

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.103
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hobson, Moses - Griffin, Sarah Wood House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	43 Middle St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-757
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1860
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Hobson, Moses
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Synthetic Other; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-757

CONCORD

103

Town

CONCORD

sect B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

Address 43 Middle Street

Historic Name Hobson/Griffin House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. 1860

Style maps; style; Keyes

Form Italianate

Architect/Builder Moses Hobson

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim synthetic siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) 20th C.:

1-story addn. at rear; some trim lost

Condition fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

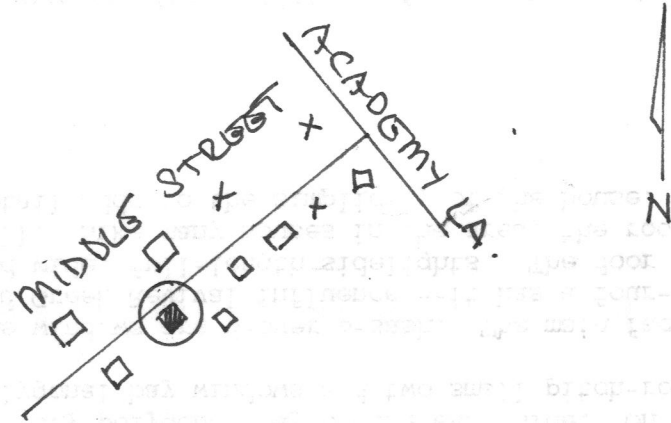
Setting On side street of primarily

mid-nineteenth century wood-frame

houses. Narrow, deep yard.

## Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



Recorded by A. Forbes; research by Ann Young

Organization for Concord Historical Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

One of Middle Street's more modest houses, #43 is also one of the simpler houses built by Moses Hobson at Concord center between the 1850's and early 1880's. It is a high 2 1/2-story 2-bay "gable-end" building with a 1 1/2-story rear wing. A facade veranda on openwork posts with small S-brackets wraps around to a second entry in a large 1-story polygonal bay on the east side. On the west side are a pair of one-story polygonal bay windows and two small pitch-roofed dormers.

The windows are 6-over-6-sash. The main facade entry shows a combination of Italianate and Greek Revival influences--it has a four-paneled door with round-topped upper panels and wide, full-length sidelights. The door in the east bay has a 4-paneled door, as well. Like many houses in the area, the roof eaves are unboxed; their lack of molding detail adds to the simplicity of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house is highly significant, not just as the work of one of Concord center's most prolific nineteenth-century architect/builders, but also as a house he lived in. Moses Hobson (1824-1882) appears to have constructed at least three of the six houses that were standing on Middle Street by 1875--this house, #53 next door, and #44 across the street. Aside from being one of the town's most important master builders, Hobson was also active in real estate transactions, buying property near the center of town, often building on it and reselling it or holding a mortgage on it. He also apparently occupied at least three of the houses he built. According to Keyes, Hobson constructed this house "before the war," and lived in it "for some years." He appears to have moved to #102 Sudbury Road for a short time after its ca. 1873-4 construction, and then to #53 Middle Street. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Walcott. "Concord Roads." 1938.

Keyes. III, 413.

Town directories.

Maps and Atlases: 1875, 1889, 1906 Atlases; undated (1871?) Walling map fragment; 1893 Wood; Sanborn maps from 1903.

Vernacular Carpenters.

Conversation with Hobson relative.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDHobson/Griffin House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

103

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

By 1875 #43 is shown as the property of Mrs. Sarah Wood Griffin (1827-1904), widow of Boston lawyer John Q.A. Griffin. She later also acquired #33, and appears to have rented one or both houses to tenants for many years. (According to Keyes, one tenant at #43 was Mrs. Charles T. Jackson, widow of the chemist who discovered "etherization.")

Mrs. Griffin was the sister of two other Middle Street owners and residents--James B. Wood (see #44), and Arthur E. Wood, (see #37,) who bought and occupied #33 after moving from the family farm at #1323 Lowell Road. By 1892 Mrs. Griffin and one of her sons, Arthur L., a theatrical manager in Boston, were occupying #43, and remained here until at least 1901.

Mrs. Griffin died in 1904, and the property was acquired by Philip McManus, owner with his brother Francis of the livery just west on Thoreau Street (see also #61 and 69 Middle Street), as a rental property. Among his tenants were lawyer Henry Dunn (1905-11) and James (or Frank) L. Bickford (1911-at least 1915.)

Middle Street was laid out in 1850. It extended from Academy Lane, (also called both School Street and Cross Street,) to the one-block section of today's Thoreau Street that had been built in front of the Fitchburg Railroad depot. Henry Thoreau made the first plan of the street, showing its division into house lots. Later in the nineteenth century it was called Centre Street; the name was changed by the early part of this century.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

CON. 103  
Property Address  
43 Middle St.

Area(s) FormNo.

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☐ Individually ☒ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A B C D

☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as an example of the work of Moses Hobson, this house meets Criteria A and C as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings.